

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

ABC-TV 20/20 Filming Plans at U.S. Embassies Abroad

FROM:

Harry E. Fitzwater
Deputy Director for Administration
7D 24 Hqs

EXTENSION

NO.

DDA 84-0064

DATE

9 January 1984

STAT

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1. Deputy Director of
Central Intelligence

2. 7D 6011 Hqs

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John,

This is absolutely the most asinine thing that State has done in a long time. They should be turning this off rather than cooperating with ABC. It provides any terrorist with a blueprint that will focus on our strengths and weaknesses.

I have asked the Director of Security to beat up on their D/OS and I am calling Lamb and Montgomery. If you agree with me you might want to talk to Eagleburger.

STAT

Harry

Att: Cable [redacted] ltd 6 Jan STAT

cc: EXDIR

DDA:HEFitzwater:kmg (9 Jan 84)
Distribution:

Orig PRS - DDCI w/att

1 - EXDIR w/att

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DCI
EXEC
REG

P-309

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INCOMING

PRIORITY

FRP: .2.

STATE

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ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 060009Z JAN 84 ZEX
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS PRIORITY
BT
CONFIDENTIAL STATE 003083

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: OPRC
SUBJECT: ABC-TV 20/20 FILMING PLANS AT U.S. EMBASSIES ABROAD

ABC-TV 20/20 PROGRAM PLANS TO FILM U.S. POSTS ABROAD. SUBJECT MATTER WILL BE SECURITY AT U.S. EMBASSIES AROUND THE WORLD, BUT THE MAJOR FOCUS WILL BE ON NEA POSTS. ABC PLANS TO FILM IN JANUARY. FOR NEA, EMBASSY AMMAN HAS BEEN ASKED TO BE FILMED AND AMBASSADOR VIETS AND RSO DEWITT TO BE INTERVIEWED, ON CAMERA. ONE OTHER POST IN EUR IS BEING CONTACTED BY DEPARTMENT IN REGARD TO SPECIFIC REQUESTS. ALL OTHER POSTS SHOULD TAKE THEIR GUIDANCE FROM THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES IF CONTACTED BY ABC OR OTHER NEWS GATHERING ORGANIZATIONS.

2. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES OUR INTERESTS WILL BE BEST PROTECTED BY MAXIMUM COOPERATION POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, WEIGHED AGAINST THIS MUST BE CONCERN FOR SECURITY OF OUR PERSONNEL AND FACILITIES. THIS IMPERATIVE WILL SEVERELY LIMIT WHAT WE CAN DO, AT LEAST IN THE EYES OF ABC.

3. ABC HAS REQUESTED OPPORTUNITY TO FILM INSIDE OUR EMBASSIES. AFTER MUCH CONSIDERATION DEPARTMENT HAS INFORMED ABC IT SEES NO WAY THIS REQUEST CAN BE MET WITHOUT JEOPARDIZING SECURITY. ABC HAS ALSO REQUESTED OPPORTUNITY TO FILM SECURITY MEASURES TAKEN DURING THE DAILY SCHEDULE OF ONE OF OUR AMBASSADORS. SINCE THIS WOULD CLEARLY EXPOSE MEASURES TAKEN TO PROTECT A SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL AND OUR AMBASSADORS IN GENERAL WE WILL ALSO NOT BE ABLE TO MEET THIS REQUEST.

4. THE DEPARTMENT HAS AGREED TO INTERVIEWS AND FILMING ELEMENTS OF THE COPING WITH VIOLENCE ABROAD TRAINING PROGRAM AT THE FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE AND TO PROVIDE ON-THE-RECORD INTERVIEWS WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS ON THE SUBJECT OF THE TERRORIST THREAT TO EMBASSIES. GENERAL SECURITY MEASURES THAT CAN BE TAKEN, THE DIFFICULTY OF BALANCING SECURITY NEEDS AND PUBLIC ACCESS REQUIREMENTS AND THE IMPACT OF SECURITY THREATS ON THE LIVES OF FOREIGN SERVICE PERSONNEL OVERSEAS. THE DEPARTMENT IS ALSO DESIGNATING ONE OR MORE AMBASSADORS AND RSO'S OR ADMIN OFFICERS TO GIVE ON-THE-RECORD INTERVIEWS ON THESE SUBJECTS. OBVIOUSLY, AT POST DISCRETION, INTERVIEWS WITH AMBASSADORS AND ADMINISTRATIVE OR SECURITY PERSONNEL COULD TAKE PLACE IN THEIR OFFICES OR OTHER SUITABLE LOCATIONS IN THE CHANCERY. AMBASSADORS AND PERSONNEL NOT SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED BY THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD NOT GIVE SUCH INTERVIEWS WITHOUT FIRST OBTAINING DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE. ABC WILL ALSO BE GIVEN ACCESS TO PORTIONS OF THE MARINE SECURITY GUARD TRAINING PROGRAM IN THE U.S.

Handwritten notes:
REV DSS
8,55 AM
copies ready
CCS/S and
AM/SS

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5. AS FAR AS THE DEPARTMENT IS CONCERNED THE U.S.G. CANNOT CONTROL ABC ACCESS TO AND FILMING OF EXTERIORS OF OUR FACILITIES FROM PUBLIC PROPERTY (SIDEWALKS, STREETS, ETC.). WE WILL NOT INTERVENE ON THE BEHALF OF ABC CREWS WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS TO OBTAIN THE NECESSARY PERMISSION IF REQUIRED BY THE HOST GOVERNMENT. OVERALL PROTECTION OF EMBASSIES IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF HOST GOVERNMENTS AND THIS DECISION MUST BE LEFT TO THEM.

6. FRANK MATTHEWS, DGP/PA, 632-1743, WILL SERVE AS PROJECT MANAGER FOR THE DEPARTMENT ON THE ABC-TV 20/20 REQUEST. POSTS ARE REQUESTED TO KEEP MATTHEWS INFORMED ABOUT ABC FILMING REQUESTS AND FILMING ACTIVITIES ON THIS SUBJECT. SHULTZ
END OF MESSAGE

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